



Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive

Institutional Publications

Naval Postgraduate School Barometer

1974-10-28

The Barometer / v.18-3

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/50336>



Calhoun is a project of the Dudley Knox Library at NPS, furthering the precepts and goals of open government and government transparency. All information contained herein has been approved for release by the NPS Public Affairs Officer.

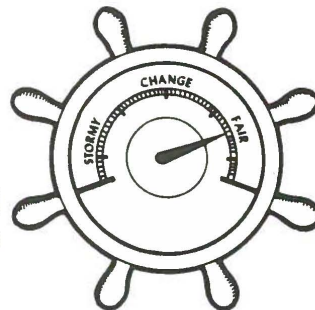
Dudley Knox Library / Naval Postgraduate School
411 Dyer Road / 1 University Circle
Monterey, California USA 93943

<http://www.nps.edu/library>

D.S



PORTLAND JUNIOR COLLEGE
 OCT 31 1974
 MONTREY CALIF 1946
The
BAROMETER



LCDR Pat SHEPHERD, SMC #2614
LT Ken HOLLEMON, SMC #1181

ScScScScScScScSc

'The USSR's submarine force, already the world's largest-and probably the most powerful as well-continues to grow in quality and numbers. The new "Delta" class ballistic missile submarine is now operational, and the "Delta II"-a giant amongst big submarines-

and two additional new classes are on the way. The Delta-II, incidentally, is expected to carry "at least" 16 SS-N-8 missiles, which have "a range of 4,200 nautical miles, giving them a capability of covering the whole of North America and the rest of NATO without the parent submarine leaving the Norwegian Sea."

"The Soviet surface Navy, which for the first time ever now outnumbered the U.S. surface Navy, is also coming into its own. Among the Soviet superstars: (1) the KRIVAK-class destroyer, which "is more than a match for any Western destroyers and, in any event, could outrun anything opposed to her"; (2) the KARA-class cruiser, possessed of "formidable power with her own helicopter and double the strength of missile-power possessed by the KRIVAKs-a single vessel of the KARA class could well engage a squadron of attacking aircraft"; and (3) the KURIL-class aircraft carrier, which, carrying both V/STOL (vertical/shore take-off and landing) aircraft and helicopters, "will provide a much-needed strengthening of the 'balance' in the Soviet fleet."

What is more ominous than present Soviet naval capabilities is the probability of even more powerful capabilities in the future. The Soviet research and development program, Moore observes, has increased "by well over half in the last five years."

Moore's commentary about "the other super-power Navy," the U.S. Navy (once known, in an expression which had become trite with usage, as a Navy "second to none"), is good writing but poor reading.

"As the predominant partner in the NATO naval forces, a partnership in which too many of the other nations are below their numerical commitments, with fleets oriented to national needs," Moore writes, "it bears a desperately heavy burden."

The United States' shrinking fleet is termed a "calculated risk":

Part of the burden is numbers. The U.S. Navy has been cut almost in half within the past six years. The decision to scrap older vessels in order to fund the fleet of the future was a conscious one, and probably a wise one. A "calculated risk," former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt used to say, to mortgage today to pay for tomorrow. If it works, the risk will have been well worthwhile. If it works.

Another serious defect appears in U.S. technological capabilities, or lack thereof. The U.S. Navy, Moore says, is afflicted with a "serious gap" in surface-to-surface missile armament, and an "inferior balance" in nuclear submarines. Another gap, equally serious, perhaps, was "left by the disposal of the specialized anti-submarine carriers." (Illustrating the dimensions of the problem that exists when the other side gets the jump in an important area of technology is the fact that U.S. nuclear attack submarines do not even now possess the anti-ship missile capability "such as the USSR has had since the first 'Whisky' class modification some 15 years ago.")

The problem is more than just a technological gap.

The big problem for the U.S. Navy, however, is much more than numbers, and much more than technology. It is a matter of national will, which in our opinion translates into a matter of national education-about the need for a Navy, and the needs OF the Navy. "Of those countries to whom a navy is today essential," Captain Moore writes, "the United States of America is one of the foremost and the U.S. Navy is probably also in the van of those subjected to misinformed, illogical and irrational attacks by some of those who depend upon it most."

Amen, we say. In a democracy it is not possible to develop and maintain the strong oceanic forces necessary for national survival without the confidence and backing of the general public, and of the public's elected representatives in Congress. Both achieving that confidence, obtaining that backing, is no easy matter. It is, indeed, a desperately heavy burden.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: The time that all students here at the PG School dread has finally come for one of the Barometer Staff members. In December LCDR Pat Shepherd will grudgingly leave the hallowed halls and return to the real day to day problems of the Navy.

His departure will leave the Barometer in the capable hands of the LT Ken Hollemon of the United States Coast Guard. While his abilities and dedication are beyond question (no shallow issues yet!) he could use the services of an interested Navy or Marine Corps Officer. If your schedule will permit a few hours a month consider volunteering for this "challenging assignment". Applicants can contact the Barometer Staff through their SMC #s.